

*Dumbarton Oaks Symposium 2004:
Egypt in the Byzantine World, 450–700*

The relatively early loss of Egypt to the Byzantine Empire has contributed to its marginal role in Byzantine studies. For the early Byzantine period, however, Egypt is an exceptionally rich field, with a range of evidence unparalleled elsewhere in the empire, thanks largely to its preservation of organic materials. The papers in this symposium, to be published by Cambridge University Press, present a synthesis that reflects the major discoveries and broad intellectual trends of the study of early Byzantine Egypt in recent years. The symposium, directed by Prof. Roger Bagnall, resists the commonplace division of the society and culture of Egypt in this period into “Greek” and “Egyptian” (or “Coptic”), an old dichotomy increasingly rejected by recent scholarship. Rather, each speaker has treated the complex cultural amalgam of early Byzantine Egypt in the context of the whole empire. In this way both Egypt’s participation in the metropolitan culture of the period and its more distinctive traits are brought out.

FRIDAY, 30 APRIL

Roger Bagnall (Columbia University)

Introduction

Peter van Minnen (University of Cincinnati)

Cities in Later Roman Egypt

James Keenan (Loyola University, Chicago)

Byzantine Egyptian Villages

Bernhard Palme (University of Vienna)

Imperial Presence: Government and Army

Joëlle Beaucamp (Université de Provence)

Droit Impérial

Ewa Wipszycka (University of Warsaw)

The Bishops of Byzantine Egypt

Todd Hickey (University of California, Berkeley)

The Economy of Byzantine Egypt

SATURDAY, 1 MAY

Arietta Papaconstantinou (Université Paris I)

The Cult of Saints: A Haven of Continuity in a Changing World?

Françoise Dunand (Université Marc Bloch, Strasbourg)

Between Tradition and Innovation: Egyptian Funerary Practices in Late Antiquity

Terry Wilfong (University of Michigan)

Gender and Society in Byzantine Egypt

Alan Cameron (Columbia University)

Classicizing Poetry in Christian Egypt

Peter Grossmann (Deutsches Archaeologisches Institut, Kairo)

Early Christian Architecture in Egypt and Its Relationship to Architecture in the Byzantine World

Thelma Thomas (University of Michigan)

Textiles in Byzantine Egypt

Raffaella Cribiore (Columbia University)

Higher Education in Late Antique Egypt

SUNDAY, 2 MAY

Darlene Brooks Hedstrom (Wittenberg University)

Divine Architects: Designing the Monastic Dwelling Place

James Goehring (Mary Washington College)

Monasticism in Byzantine Egypt: Continuity with and Memory of the Past

Elizabeth Bolman (Temple University)

Depicting the Kingdom of Heaven: Paintings and Monastic Practice in Late Antique Egypt